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Savez Lekarskih Društava FNRJ, Kongress Lekara FNRJ, Program (Program of the Confederation of Medical Societies of the FPRY, Congress of Doctors of the FPRY). [redacted]

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## NEW DATA ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF BRUCELLOSIS IN ISTRIA

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Rijeka

Bovine diseases and endemic brucellosis in Istria present a new and vital hygienic, economic, and social problem for our entire state. These zoonoses, which appeared sporadically before the war and were probably brought from Italy, have spread throughout the whole province of Istria in recent years and the explosive endemic attacks accounted for the death of several hundred heads of cattle.

The sources of infection are chiefly manifested in sheep and goats, and also probably in cows, sheep dogs, and other animals. Driving of the herd over long distances, ignorance of the herdsmen on the subject of animal husbandry, inadequate veterinary supervision, and other factors contribute greatly to the dissemination of this disease.

Those engaged in animal husbandry were orally infected through the use of milk and its by-products, percutaneously infected through handling diseased animal products such as leather, meat and manure, and probably by dust affecting the conjunctiva and tonsils. The majority of these cases indicating abortive and ambulant-chronic manifestations are treated at home while those with subacute and acute toxic brucellosis are generally hospitalized in the isolation ward of the Rijeka Hospital. Cultures from the blood and urine specimens of these cases were identified as *Br. melitensis*.

So far we know, cases indicating clinical manifestations were mainly infected through a brief and accidental exposure or a single chance contact with infected animal products, while those in constant contact with infected animals indicated acquired immunity following a latent infection.

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Organized collaboration of the epidemiologist, clinician, and the veterinarian is essential in the fight against this disease and the solution of many problems of epidemiology.

Brucellosis is a dangerous disease of today; yet, in a general epidemiological and clinical sense, this disease is erroneously treated. In our country in particular, the effective treatment of this disease is an imperative task for our epidemiologists.

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